1. A coating (8), particularly for a cutting tool, comprising

a wear-protection layer (9) having a metallic-crystalline structure,

a top layer (12) having a limited adhesion to the wear-protection layer (9) and/or

a separating layer (11) applied to at least one portion of the wear-protection layer (9) and arranged between the wear-protection layer (9) and the top layer (12); the separating layer (11) limits the adhesion of the top layer (12) to the wear-protection layer (9).

2. The coating as defined in claim 1, characterized in that on the separating layer (11) a top layer (12) is disposed which is preferably a decorative layer.

3. The coating as defined in claim 2, characterized in that the top layer (12) has a color which perceptively differs from the color of the wear-protection layer (9).

4. The coating as defined in claim 2, characterized in that the top layer (12) is a ZrC, CrC, ZrN, CrN, TiN, a TiC, a HfC or a HfN layer.

5. The coating as defined in claim 2, characterized in that the top layer (12) has a metallic-crystalline structure.

6. The coating as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the separating layer (11) has a structure which is not metallic-crystalline.

7. The coating as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the separating layer (11) is an oxide layer containing at least one metal of a side group of the chemical periodic system of elements.

8. The coating as defined in claim 7, characterized in that the metal (M) is an element of the $IV^{th}$ side group and is preferably titanium or zirconium.

9. The coating as defined in claim 7, characterized in that the metal (M) is an element of the $V^{th}$ side group.

10. The coating as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the separating layer (11) contains or is a chemical compound with a preponderantly covalent bond.

11. The coating as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the separating layer (11) is strongly non-stoichiometrically composed.

12. The coating as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the separating layer (11) is a strongly stressed layer.

13. The coating as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the separating layer (11) has an inner stress which significantly differs from the inner stress of the wear-protection layer and the top layer (12).



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14. The coating as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the separating layer is a DLC layer.

15. The coating as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the separating layer is an $MoS_2$ layer.

16. The coating as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the wear-protection layer (9) is a TiAlN layer or a CrAlN layer.

17. The coating as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the wear-protection layer (9) has a single-layer structure.

18. The coating as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the wear-protection layer (9) has a multi-layer structure.

19. The use of a coating, as defined in one of the foregoing claims, on a cutting tool comprising a basic body (7) made of a hard material.

20. A method as defined in claim 19, characterized in that the wear-protection layer (9) is provided at least on a clearance surface (3) and at least on a rake surface (4), while the top layer (12) does not cover or only partially covers the clearance surface (3) and/or the rake surface (2).

21. A method of making a cutting tool, first applying in a PVD coating process a coating to a basic body (7) in a layer sequence according to one of claims 1 to 18, and subsequently removing the top layer (12)



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from selected upper surface portions by a mechanical abrading process.

22. The method as defined in claim 21, characterized in that the top layer (12) is removed by a sandblasting process.

23. The method as defined in claim 21, characterized in that all the layers of the coating (8) are applied in a single PVD process.



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